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Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2010-2011 — review session

Outcomes of the regional implementation meetings for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

Note by the secretariat

1. The Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), adopted at the World Summit for Sustainable Development in 2002, stated that the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the Summit should be effectively pursued at the regional and subregional levels, through the United Nations regional commissions and other regional and subregional institutions and bodies.

2. The Commission on Sustainable Development, at its eleventh session, invited the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission, to consider organizing regional implementation meetings in order to contribute to the work of the Commission, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and in collaboration with other regional and subregional organizations and bodies, as appropriate, as well as the regional offices of funds, programmes and international finance and trade institutions and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system. Such meetings should preferably be held before the review session of the Commission and should:

(a) Contribute to advancing the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation;

(b) Focus on the thematic cluster of issues to be addressed in the ongoing implementation cycle;

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(c) Provide input to the report of the Secretary-General and the sessions of the Commission. Those inputs may include identification of obstacles and constraints, new challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, and sharing of lessons learned and best practices;

(d) Provide for contributions from major groups, taking into account paragraphs 139 (g) and 149 (c) and (d) of the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation.

3. Pursuant to the invitation of the Commission on Sustainable Development all United Nations regional commissions organized regional implementation meetings in their respective regions prior to the twelfth, fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission. The regional implementation meetings were organized within the framework of relevant regional forums or as separate meetings. The outcome documents of the regional implementation meetings provided input to the Secretary-General's reports and created a good basis for the regional discussions held during the twelfth, fourteenth and sixteenth sessions of the Commission.

4. At its eighteenth session, the Commission will undertake a review of progress achieved at all levels in the implementation of commitments, targets and goals on the thematic cluster transport, chemicals, waste management, mining and the 10-year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production patterns. As a contribution to the review, the regional commissions, in collaboration with the secretariat of the Commission and other regional and subregional organizations, organized the following regional implementation meetings:

(a) For Africa, in Addis Ababa, from 27 to 30 October 2009, within the framework of the sixth session of the Committee on Food Security and Sustainable Development (see E/CN.17/2010/10/Add.1);

(b) For Asia and the Pacific, in Bangkok, from 30 November to 1 December 2009 (see E/CN.17/2010/10/Add.2);

(c) For Europe and North America, in Geneva, on 1 and 2 December 2009 (see E/CN.17/2010/10/Add.3);

(d) For Latin America and the Caribbean, in La Antigua, Guatemala, on 26 and 27 November 2009 (see E/CN.17/2010/10/Add.4);

(e) For Western Asia, in Cairo, from 4 to 6 October 2009, in association with the eleventh session of the Joint Committee on Environment and Development in the Arab Region (see E/CN.17/2010/10/Add.5).